

Student Fee Advisory Committee

February 18, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Present: Andrew Hallak, Sarah Alkhatib, Chico Hill, Elianna Elaine Martinez, Wiley Wilson, Anganette Cisneros, Jun Jang, Johnathan Li, Kasey Ning, Taeoni Norgaar, Nisha Sandhu, Adeli Duron

Absent: Jeff Ludwig, "Angel" Hsiao-Yun, Lee Bardwell

Staff: Karen Mizumoto

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Motion to approve the agenda. No objections. Agenda approved.
3. Motion to approve the minutes from the 2/11/2022 meeting. No objections. Minutes approved.
4. Review of Course Material Services Fees (CMSF)
 - a. Karen forwarded the committee's feedback to the Samueli School of Engineering (SSoE) for the four CMSF proposals. In addition to the course-specific questions, the committee had two general questions for all four proposals [one asking if there were required textbooks and/or other materials and how much the cost is; and another question asking what the departments have done to find funding for the materials costs rather than passing the cost onto students via a CMSF]. The school provided some answers [for ENGR 7A/B] and is waiting to hear answers on others [ENGR 54, MSE 60 and MSE 190].
 - b. Regarding ENGR 7A/B, the increase is for inflation. There is a \$40 textbook that is used for both quarters.
 - c. We are waiting to hear back about the other courses' required textbooks, plus more detailed information on alternative funding.
 - d. The committee will give SSoE until next week to fully respond to the questions and will table further discussion until the 2/25/22 meeting before moving forward.
 - e. No other questions about CMSF proposals.
5. Proposed Campus-Based Fee Referenda Language
 - a. Karen sent the committee drafts of the three proposed student referenda via email for review for feedback via email by Wednesday, 2/16.
 - b. Revised final drafts were sent out that incorporate the committee's feedback as well as feedback from UCOP.
 - c. The committee's feedback was to add language that states what the total annual amount of the fees are in the election section of the ballot.

- d. Discussion and vote on the referenda language
 - i. The committee will need to take a final vote to approve or not approve the referenda language.
 - ii. Will need to move forward quickly because AGS and AS committees meet infrequently, and they each need to vote to act on the referenda after the SFAC's recommendations.
 - iii. Merage Student Association (MSA) referendum
 - 1. Fee increase from \$14 to \$33 per student per quarter.
 - 2. Not placing a value judgement on referenda. Just reviewing to see if it is understandable to students when they vote. Do they know how much they will be paying and what they are paying for?
 - 3. UCOP made clarifying changes to the language and a correction to the total amount of the current fee (\$42 per year, not \$45 per year).
 - 4. Is the fee for all quarters except for summer (fall through spring or also summer)? It will be charge from just the fall through spring quarter. This was why the language was added to clarify what the total per year amount will be.
 - 5. What does language related the first asterisk [discussing return-to-aid (RTA)] mean? Karen explained that the UC campus-based fee RTA policy is a minimum of 25% of the new fee or fee increase. UCI students have elected to make campus standard 33% (using the same % as the current undergraduate USAP RTA on UC Tuition and Student Services Fee increases).
 - 6. Andrew wanted to ensure students know exactly how much they would be paying, so he suggested language that a fee for a total of \$99 fee per student annually. Make it very clear and explicit that it was not just \$33, but for the for the whole year it would be \$99.
 - 7. Annual inflationary adjustments---is that just saying that it just the fee that is being proposed or if you vote yes, is there an additional fee? What it is basically saying is that the fee is subject to change due to inflation (ties into third asterisk on the first page). So, if it is \$99 starting in fall 2023, it could be a few dollars higher the next fall? Yes. It's a common line that is included in the referenda that have been reviewed.
 - 8. Jonathan thought it was interesting that there is an MSA membership dues/membership and now there is this fee. Karen clarified that the AGS/MSA fee is specifically for the Merage graduate professional students that was first created as an AGS fee then business students voted to increase the fee for business students only, and now they want to increase the fee again. What are the membership dues? This is an optional membership fee directly to MSA itself. It's a MSA dues paid members for which they gain access to benefits associated with MSA membership. Karen said students should not be charged both the AGS/MSA fees and dues for MSA. The AGS/MSA fee are paid by graduate students only and the membership dues may be for other Merage

students who want to take part in MSA activities, but do not pay the AGS/MSA fee.

9. No other comments.

10. Vote: Yes – 9; No – 0; Abstain -0

iv. Womxn’s Hub referendum

1. Also repeat referendum that did not pass last spring, so not a lot of changes from last’s years language.

2. What does the word “assessed” what does this mean? Karen explained that this was UCOP’s revision (changed from “charged”). The standard UC language is that students are “assessed” fees, and this is how UCOP wants this expressed. In layman’s terms it is the same as charged.

3. Vote: Yes – 8; No – 0; Abstain – 1

v. New U referendum

1. This is a new fee being created to replace former fee that had a few years ago.

2. Is there inconsistency in the referendum language in the first two sentences of paragraph 3? Is the newspaper printed quarterly or monthly? Karen will follow up with Student Government.

3. The committee voted to take two votes:

4. First vote: to approve language as it stands currently with contradiction: Yes – 4; No – 2; Abstain - 2

5. Second vote: to approve language with correction of language from “quarterly” to “monthly”: Yes – 5; No – 1; Abstain – 2

6. Karen reports that she received a response from Student Government (Stephanie Van Ginkel), and the intended language is, in fact, “monthly” and the edit has been made.

vi. No further comments/questions on proposed referenda language.

6. No further business.

7. Meeting adjourned.